

AGTECH Connections

The newsletter of the Australian Technology & Agricultural College

'Connecting the College with the Community'

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**Edition 107:
March/April 2025**



College Founder/CEO

Dr Narendra Nand (PhD)

Principal's Message

After the last newsletter, we decided to publish bimonthly issues of AGTECH Connections. The March/April issue is the second bimonthly issue with the activities and functions that have engaged our students. We were also able to submit our RTO declarations and NSSAB requirements along with meetings with parents and guardians. Despite some departures to new careers and job opportunities, new students are getting acquainted with the job-readiness skills. Students have reviewed their CV's, and some have also applied for jobs. We acknowledge the support of some businesses who have been in touch with us to consider helping our students who are interested in specific careers. Thanks, Mul & Rose Chand of Queensland Compressor Technology for ongoing support to our students for many years.

We are pleased to have met most of the parents and/or guardians in the last few months. Parents

do understand that the students are not under too much academic pressure, and they work at their own pace with teachers. Students must complete their assessments with one-to-one support and build up their academic points for QCE. ATAC has now consolidated its academic and career pathways and is embarking on electronic pathways to deliver higher education courses. It also assists staff to deliver the courses and increase accessibility to all our programs. Our flexible pathway provides a unique opportunity for many students who like to succeed with minimum stress.

Year 10 is compulsory, and all students must complete the QCAA program in a more relaxed environment and seek opportunities for work experience. The introduction of certificate II in hospitality for building life skills, and health and fitness activity for mental health assist us to provide long term solutions for success and happiness. Multiskilling with life-skills, along with successful completion of Certificate II courses, equips our students with skills and experience for holiday and weekend jobs. Students who are hardworking, responsible and interested are considered for any opportunity available in their field of choice.

This year we have years 10 and 11 students who are completing their Certificate II in Work for Skills (BSB20120), and Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways (FSK 20119), a Trade course from TAFE or a course of their choice from another RTO to accumulate their QCE points. Year 10 will complete their Trade Taster from TAFE and obtain a white card which would enable them to secure work experience. Students will have to apply for TAFE courses as soon as the enrolments open and ATAC will assist with their applications to secure a place for next year.

New Facilities and Resources

Students have been happy with the new and upgraded computers, tables and chairs from the start of this year. Many students find the computers to be much faster and efficient. We have resolved some plumbing issues with our kitchen for hospitality which is almost fully ready for approval. The professional gym and fitness equipment provide opportunities for physical and mental health support. Congratulations to Ms. Kamini for accepting our offer to provide professional training to our young students every Wednesday.

Outdoor Activities

ATAC's ongoing projects such as poultry care, gardening and nursery continue to provide additional training to assist students with mental health support and teaching of lifelong skills. Our professional gym equipment and the community gardens are also available to the public as a community engagement strategy.

Thanks to Ms. Mary Irene Bayldon (ATAC Chair) and Ms. Nandani Chandra for supporting the embedded mental health strategy and Marnie Parker for building of life skills. Students love the cooking sessions and enjoy their lunch.

From the Teacher's Desk:
Ms. Nandani Chandra
Senior Teacher/Deputy
Principal

On Wednesday, 26th March, our students had the opportunity to participate in a virtual webinar hosted by Riki Galerakis from Headspace. The session focused on the theme of **Building Connections**, a topic that resonated deeply with our students. They explored the idea that forming meaningful relationships requires both effort and courage. While it may seem daunting at first, students discovered that connecting with others can also be enjoyable and rewarding. The webinar offered practical strategies for building connections and



emphasized the importance of vulnerability and seeking support during times of loneliness or need.

The following day, Thursday, 27th March, we came together as a community to celebrate **Harmony Day**. This year's theme, "*Everyone Belongs*," was brought to life through a vibrant celebration that welcomed parents and community members to join in the festivities. A special highlight of the day was a presentation by two of our students, Peter and Mariah, who shared their knowledge and pride in their Indigenous culture. Their heartfelt presentation was a powerful reminder of the strength and continuity of ancient traditions in the hands of today's youth.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the day's success—especially those who helped with food and event setup. Our students enjoyed a rich cultural experience, sampling delicious dishes and engaging in activities that celebrated the diversity of our community.

Together, these two events highlighted the importance of connection, inclusion, and cultural appreciation—values that lie at the heart of the ATAC community.

Ms. Nandani Chandra
MEd Leadership & Management, BEd. Secondary Sciences,
BSc Applied Science, Grad. Dip. Psychology



Mr. Mul Chand, Director of Queensland Computer Technology signs up another work experience student and is hopeful that Rhyse Doughan will like the work and persevere with the company which is looking forward to signing up another ATAC student for apprenticeship. Tyler Barrett, a year 12 student who graduated last year has signed up an apprenticeship with QCT and is currently travelling around the state working on various jobs. Tyler had also completed Cert. III in Engineering from TAFE while completing QCE, Cert. II FSK and Cert. II Workplace Skill



Miss Jacqueline Strong is on her attachment as trainee education support staff. She is attached with ATAC to work with young teenagers to complete her Certificate III in School Based Education Support from TAFE. She has completed a term and will be assessed by her supervisor this term from TAFE. She has been a great support to the students and staff.



Ms. Marnie Parker's passion for bushfood is driving her to be attached with ATAC. She has made a great effort in building teamwork, social and personal skills, and long-term friendships. With many years of experience and qualifications, with various high schools and ISQ, she provides Certificate II in Hospitality training and re-engaging students to build life-long skills that can find short-term employment for some students. Last term, students prepared Kangaroo Nachos and Lemon Myrtle-flavored carrot-pineapple-apple smoothie for morning tea. Students had to explain the details of their recipes for the preparation of their Kangaroo Nachos as part of their assessment.

Ms. Radhika

MBA & MSc + TAE 40116

Business Development Manager/Admin Officer

🌈 What an Incredible Month at ATAC!

We've had a fantastic month of progress and achievements! Our students have been actively working on their FSK20119 projects, and we're thrilled to announce that they have successfully completed Unit 1. They are now confidently moving forward into Unit 2. A huge well done to all our hardworking students!

💉 LCC Immunisation Program - Year 10

Last week, we hosted the LCC Immunisation Program for Year 10 students at ATAC. If your child missed their vaccination, LCC has provided a catch-up brochure with all the necessary information for rescheduling. If you require a copy or more details, please feel free to contact us.

💰 School Fees Reminder

A big thank you to families who have paid their school fees on time. Your support is truly appreciated. For those with outstanding payments, receipts and invoices have been sent via. MYOB.

If you have any queries or need assistance, don't hesitate to get in touch.

🎓 Courses at ATAC – Pathways for Success

At ATAC, we are dedicated to helping students bridge gaps and progress in their education and careers. We are currently offering courses for online students in:

Certificate II in Vocational Pathways (FSK20119)

Certificate II in Workplace Skills (BSB20120)

Diploma of Business

Diploma of Leadership and Management

Certificate IV in Leadership and Management

Enrolment is open all year round for both online and/or face-to-face training.

We offer customised learning plans to support students in successfully completing their senior education.

ATAC Harmony Day 27th March 2025



The Harmony Day celebration at ATAC. ATAC Chair Ms. Irene Bayldon and some neighbors also joined us. Thank you to all those who took time to join us on the day.



Our closest school neighbors were warmly welcomed to our celebration. They were greatly impressed with what ATAC does for young students.



(L-R) Cleaveland, Rhyse, Jaxon and Matthew enjoying their lunch they had helped to prepare. Life skills, social skills and Hospitality training – all very important for a job in the service industry for some extra income.



Indigenous students, Peter and Mariah joined us to share their knowledge and skills with ATAC community. Thanks, Tracey Freckelton for arranging these young people for the celebrations.



Locklyn with his proud mum, Carmen, who has seen positive changes in her son. She has been regularly discussing her son's progress. Thanks Carmen. Locklyn takes a keen interest in gardening and has been studying about some new and highly priced Asian vegetable.



The Indigenous team who made our Harmony Day a success enjoying the sumptuous lunch prepared by ATAC students. This event highlighted our interest in enriching our ATAC community with diversity of cultures, respect and inclusiveness.

Hands-on and **Lifelong Skills** in the gardens



Locklyn and Rhyse busy planting vegetable seedlings at the end of term 1. Seedlings were purchased from Bunnings for a quick greenery.



Cleaveland planted his spinach in the garden beds in the last week of term 1. Almost six weeks now, they are getting ready for harvest. Grow Your Own, Eat Your Own and Be healthy.



After five weeks, the Bak choy, basil and tomatoes flourish and almost ready for harvest soon.



Jaxon, Jack and Sam help with more fertilizer containing potting mix to give a boost to the vegetables. Rhyse is digging deep to obtain more mix for the garden bed.



Locklyn is all excited about his gardens and is always keen to help and look after the plants. He enthusiastically provides a little tender care that is needed all along.



Cleaveland and Jack feeding the ducks. One of the baby ducks is being looked after by Cleaveland as a pet at his home. It is of great help to Cleaveland to be attached to the drake and he is seeking to find his mates.

Bee Keeping Training at ATAC



Bee keeping future initiatives by Bee All Natural to have an opportunity to shoot for a bright spotlight on their buzzing friends. The bee education with the much loved "Bees in Schools" program is gaining momentum for the future growth and development of the industry by the engagement of young people in every way possible.



The Bee All-Natural team in their bee-keeping suits on the job. (L-R) Jason, daughter Miranda and Natasha Roebing. They have made bottles of honey from ATAC hives and labelled them for sale from the college. You can contact us for pure local honey. Please



Special highlight – Beekeeper Jason carefully extracted a native beehive that had taken up residence in a utility box and rehoused in a purpose build native hive. Rescue and resettling Native bees is preserving our Native populations and supporting our natural environment.



Native beehives rescued to a new custom designed native box for re-establishment of Native bees. A fine skilled job that needs a lot of care, knowledge and skills to successfully establish the hive. A long-term conservation and sustainability initiative.



Jason of Bee All-Natural working on his Native Bee rescue operation. The fine and delicate operation which needs knowledge and skills of an experienced person. Pass it on, Jason and grow the industry. Congratulations.



The happy, passionate, hardworking and loving family of Bee All-Natural that has grown the Bee keeping business, education and training in Southeast Queensland. Their company has won many local and National awards for their hard work and innovative products. Congratulations. Bee All Natural provides KRANK training program for young people at ATAC. ATAC has seven hives and produces honey for sale. d



Ms. Irene Bayldon (L) the chair of Ethnic Schools Association of Queensland, her Secretary Ms. Timea, the treasurer Dr. Narendra Nand at the National Community Languages Conference at the South Bank TAFE. More than 120 participants attended from all states. Ms. Bayldon and Dr. Nand are also directors of ATAC.



Mr. Lawm Changma of Chin Community with Cr. Paul Jackson (Middle) of Logan City Council and Dr. Nand to discuss community engagement and training at ATAC for our new communities. The communities see the benefit of engaging with ATAC in growing vegetables and supporting our older people with some hands-on skills. ATAC is happy to support the Men's shed, nursery and vegetable farming initiatives and other communities who wish to engage with us. ATAC is happy to provide any formal training that will improve the knowledge and skills to upgrade their qualifications.



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Contact us:

07 5547 8598 or

E: admin@atac.qld.edu.au

NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of The
Australian Technology &
Agricultural College Ltd.

Date: **Sunday 1st June 2025**

Venue: ATAC 4808-4822 Mt
Lindesay Highway, North Maclean
Q4280.

Time: 9:30 am

Election of Board of Members and
Directors

Nominations are still open from
parents/guardians, businesses and
organizations.

We encourage all ex-parents and
members of the public who have
been working with or supporting
ATAC to seek membership consent
forms from the office.

All members and directors must have
a Blue Card.